

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The claims in the present application are rejected over Cleary et al. in view of Ushirogouchi et al. Ushirogouchi is cited for its showing that to get high quality printed image, ink jet image forming method includes the exposing steps, wherein a temperature of the UV ray-emitting source is from 50 to 80°C. The Examiner reasons that it would have been obvious to modify Cleary et al. with the teaching of Ushirogouchi in order to have a high quality printed image. This combination of references is cited alone or with other documents as set forth in the Office Action.

Applicants note that Ushirogouchi et al. is a U.S. patent publication with a filing date of April 22, 2003 and an issued date of December 18, 2003. Since the present application has a filing date of July 11, 2003, Ushirogouchi is a reference only as defined under 35 USC 102(e), that is, as of its filing date. Because the present application has a priority date that predates Ushirogouchi, applicants wish to rely on their priority date based on JP 2002-245013, of August 26, 2002.

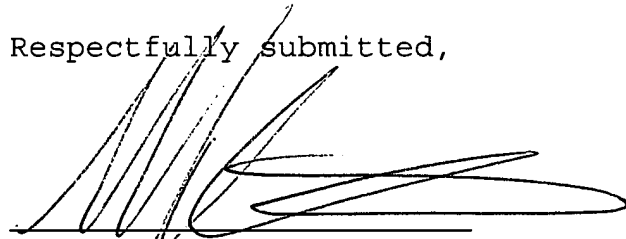
Appl. No. 10/618,294
Reply to Office Action of September 22, 2004

Enclosed herewith is an accurate translation of the priority document which provides support for the present claims, e.g. see claims on pages 1-3 of the enclosed translation.

Withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MARSHALL J. CHICK', written over a horizontal line.

MARSHALL J. CHICK
Reg. No. 26,853

Enc. English translation of Priority Document JP 2002-245013
filed August 26, 2002.